Docket No.: 52779USA1B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the Divisional Application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) filed herewith. With this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-36 are cancelled. The cancelled claims were prosecuted in the parent application. Claims 37-43 are pending in the application.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Matthew B. McNutt

Registration No. 39,766

Date: March 20, 2000

Certificate of Mailing

☑ Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8 I certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 20, 2000.

By:

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